

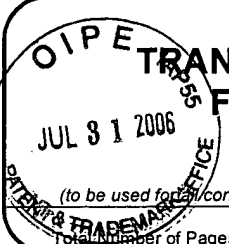
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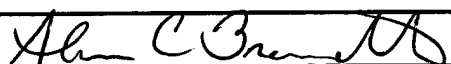
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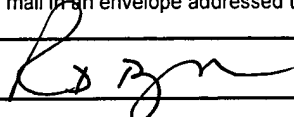
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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	Application Number	10/628,884
	Filing Date	July 28, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Shlaes et al.
	Art Unit	2166
	Examiner Name	Mohamman Ali
	Attorney Docket Number	23688.04164
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		5

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Alan C. Brandt		
Date	26 July 2006	Reg. No.	50,218

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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Shlaes et al.

Examiner: Mohammad Ali

Serial No.: 10/628,884

Group Art Unit: 2166

Filed: July 28, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3865

For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM  
OF UNIFYING DATA**

Attorney Docket No.: 23688.04164

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on June 26, 2006 and indicating the claims in the above-identified patent application are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. In response, the applicants respectfully traverse the election/restrictions and requests the USPTO to reconsider the restriction requirement.

The present application was filed with twenty-three (23) claims, including independent claims 1, 7, 16, and 20. In summary, the Office Action divides the claims into two groups of allegedly independent and distinct inventions. The two groups are identified as follows:

Response to Restriction Requirement  
Serial No. 10/294,285

- Group I. Claims 1-19 are drawn to using the data access mechanism of the single data source to facilitate access to the single data source, classified in class 707, subclass 9.
- Group II. Claims 20-23 are drawn to populating the columns of the result set with data retrieved from the query, classified in class 707, subclass 102.

The Office Action argues that the inventions associated with the two groups are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination but that are distinct because they are separately usable. Additionally, the USPTO supports the restriction requirement by stating that the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification.


The applicants respectfully disagree that the two groups define independent and distinct inventions. For example, Groups I and II are both directed to a system or method that provides a set of results to a user query by accessing one or more data sources using a data access mechanism associated with each of the data sources in class 707. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request the USPTO to reconsider the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action of June 26, 2006 and to examine all claims of the application.

Nevertheless, to fully address the restriction requirement, the applicants hereby elect Group I (i.e., claims 1-19) for further prosecution. However, the applicant maintains the right to file additional applications in connection with the non-elected group (i.e., claims 20-23).

The applicants believe that no additional fee is associated with this Response to Restriction Requirement. However, should any fee or fee deficiency be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees associated with this Response to Restriction Requirement to deposit account number 03-0172. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 26 July 2006

  
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